

COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR THE TREATMENT OF PRIMARY AND METASTATIC NEOPLASTIC DISEASES USING ARSENIC COMPOUNDS

This application is a continuation of copending U.S. patent application serial number 09/173,531 filed October 15, 1998, which claims the benefit of U.S. provisional patent application serial number 60/062,375 filed October 15, 1997, herein incorporated by reference.

FIELD OF INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to methods and compositions for the treatment of primary and metastatic neoplastic diseases, including, but not limited to human sarcomas, carcinomas and hematopoietic disorders. In the practice of the treatment of cancer, compositions containing arsenic compounds are used to arrest and reverse neoplastic growth.

[0002] More specifically, the present invention relates to novel chemotherapeutic methods--novel uses of arsenic compounds for treating primary and metastatic tumors; primary and metastatic tumors of the central nervous system; refractory primary and metastatic tumors of the central nervous system; breast, lung, bladder and prostate cancer; and refractory breast, lung, bladder and prostate cancer to mention a few.

2. BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] In 1997 more than one million people will develop some type of cancer in the United States. Approximately 500,000 will be cured or in a state of remission. These numbers represent an improving cure rate seen over the past decade which is largely due to earlier detection, better treatment and advances in chemotherapy. In particular, the advances in chemotherapy include targeted or specific drug therapy in which a

drug is developed specifically for the treatment of a certain cancer type. This "disease-oriented" approach is designed to identify compounds which exert selective effects in vitro on particular tumor types and to follow-up these leads in vivo utilizing cell lines, (Fiebig et al., Cancer Treatment Reviews 17:109-117 (1990)). However, the incidence of cancer is continuing to climb as our population ages and as new cancers develop or occur more frequently, such as in patients infected with AIDS virus. Thus, it is clear that there is a tremendous demand for additional regimens to treat patients with cancer.

2.1. Pathobiology of Cancer

[0004] Cancer is characterized primarily by an increase in the number of abnormal cells derived from a given normal tissue, invasion of adjacent tissues by these abnormal cells, and lymphatic or blood-borne spread of malignant cells to regional lymph nodes and to distant sites (metastasis). Clinical data and molecular biologic studies indicate that cancer is a multistep process that begins with minor preneoplastic changes, which may under certain conditions progress to neoplasia.

[0005] Pre-malignant abnormal cell growth is exemplified by hyperplasia, metaplasia, or most particularly, dysplasia (for review of such abnormal growth conditions, see Robbins and Angell, 1976, Basic Pathology, 2d Ed., W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia, pp. 68-79). Hyperplasia is a form of controlled cell proliferation involving an increase in cell number in a tissue or organ, without significant alteration in structure or function. As but one example, endometrial hyperplasia often precedes endometrial cancer. Metaplasia is a form of controlled cell growth in which one type of adult or fully differentiated cell substitutes for another type of adult cell. Metaplasia can occur in epithelial or connective tissue cells. Atypical metaplasia involves a somewhat disorderly metaplastic epithelium. Dysplasia is frequently a forerunner of cancer, and is found mainly in the epithelia; it is the most disorderly form of non-neoplastic cell growth, involving a loss in individual cell uniformity and in the architectural orientation of cells. Dysplastic cells often have abnormally large, deeply stained nuclei, and exhibit pleomorphism. Dysplasia characteristically occurs where there exists chronic irritation or inflammation, and is often found in the cervix, respiratory passages, oral cavity, and gall bladder.

[0006] The neoplastic lesion may evolve clonally and develop an increasing capacity for invasion, growth, metastasis, and heterogeneity, especially under conditions in which the neoplastic cells escape the host's immune surveillance (Roitt, I., Brostoff, J and Kale, D., 1993, Immunology, 3rd ed., Mosby, St. Louis, pps. 17.1-17.12).

2.2. AIDS-related Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

[0007] Since the discovery of AIDS, the disease has had a close association with an interesting spectrum of cancers. Further, the types of malignancies and their incidence rates are increasing as the development of effective antiretroviral therapies and prophylaxis against opportunistic infections leads to prolonged survival in the immunodeficient state for AIDS patients, (Karp and Broder, Cancer Res. 51:4747-4756 (1991)). AIDS-related non-Hodgkin's lymphoma was found to occur in AIDS patients only after 1981. AIDS-related non-Hodgkin's lymphoma is a very aggressive disease with a very high incidence of central nervous system involvement. It is increasing in incidence in the AIDS population. As patients infected with the AIDS virus now live longer because they are not dying of the usual infections, they are developing lymphoma at an increasing rate. The characteristics of AIDS-related non-Hodgkin's lymphoma are detailed in an article by Karp and Broder, (1991), supra.

[0008] The problems the medical oncologist has in treating patients with AIDS-related lymphomas is the recently described predilection for occurrence of the lymphoma in the central nervous system (in brain and surrounding meninges) and the fact that the patient with AIDS has a very weak bone marrow which cannot tolerate treatment with standard chemotherapy. This makes the treatment of lymphoma in patients with AIDS very difficult because standard chemotherapeutic agents are usually very marrow suppressive and do not cross blood brain barrier (to treat the central nervous system disease).

2.3. Primary and Metastatic CNS Tumors

[0009] The incidence of primary and metastatic brain tumors is increasing in the United States. Indeed, the arsenal of chemotherapeutics for these types of cancers is

minimal, while the need for such therapeutics is high.

[0010] Glioblastoma multiform and other primary and metastatic central nervous system tumors are devastating malignancies. The treatment of these tumors include surgery, radiation therapy and treatment with agents such as the nitrosourea BCNU. Other chemotherapeutic agents utilized include procarbazine, vincristine, hydroxyurea and cisplatin. Unfortunately, even when all three modalities (surgery, radiation therapy and chemotherapy) are utilized, the average survival of patients with central nervous system malignancies is still about 57 weeks. Clearly, new treatment approaches are needed both for patients with newly diagnosed primary and metastatic central nervous system tumors, as well as for patients with such tumors which are refractory to the above modalities. Finding such new agents has been complicated by the fact that there is no animal model which appears to predict what agent will be clinically effective against primary and metastatic central nervous system tumors.

2.4. Breast, Lung, Bladder and Prostate Cancers

[0011] Breast cancer has been known to occur in about one in every 8-9 women in the United States. The treatment for early breast cancer is surgery, with or without radiation therapy, or surgery, with or without radiation therapy, plus chemotherapy and/or hormonal therapy. Despite the best efforts of physicians there are still more than 80,000 deaths each year from breast cancer and the incidence is still rising. Current chemotherapy for patients with primary or metastatic breast cancer includes treatment with cyclophosphamide, methotrexate, doxorubicin, 5-fluorouracil, cisplatin, vinblastine, taxol, taxotere, mitomycin C and occasionally other agents. Unfortunately, even with these agents, almost all women who develop metastatic breast cancer succumb to their disease. One particular place that metastatic breast cancer does metastasize to is the central nervous system. When central nervous system metastases do occur, the usual treatment is surgery (for a solitary metastasis) or radiation, or surgery plus radiation therapy. At present there is no chemotherapy which is felt to be helpful in this situation.

[0012] Lung cancer is responsible for more than 150,000 deaths each year in the United States. Most patients with lung cancer present a tumor that has already

metastasized to a variety of organs, including lung, liver, adrenal gland and other organs. The current treatment for metastatic lung cancer is not yet standardized (Ihde, Daniel C., "Chemotherapy of Lung Cancer", The New England Journal of Medicine 327:1434-1441, 1992 November 12th issue). However, chemotherapy regimens which are utilized include treatment with cisplatin plus etoposide, combinations of cyclophosphamide plus doxorubicin plus cisplatin, and single agents alone or in combination, including ifosfamide, teniposide, vindesine, carboplatin, vincristine, taxol, nitrogen mustard, methotrexate, hexamethylmelamine and others. Despite these chemotherapeutic regimens the average patient with metastatic lung cancer still only survives 7-12 months. One particular troublesome place for metastases of lung cancer is the central nervous system. The treatment for central nervous system metastases includes surgery (to remove a solitary lesion), radiation therapy, or a combination of both. Unfortunately, there is not standard chemotherapy which is felt to be helpful in this situation.

[0013] Each year about 11,000 patients die of bladder cancer in the U.S. Although at presentation the disease is usually localized, most patients develop distant metastatic disease. The most recent advances have been in the area of chemotherapy for patients with such metastatic disease. One effective regimen is called the MVAC regimen. It consists of treatment with methotrexate plus vinblastine plus adriamycin (doxorubicin) plus cisplatin. Although the response rate is high to this chemotherapeutic regimen, medical oncologists are noting that one place the patients fail is with metastases to the central nervous system. Unfortunately, there is no standard chemotherapy which is felt to be helpful in this situation.

[0014] It is estimated that more than 100,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year and more than 30,000 patients will die from the disease. The most common sites of metastases in patients with prostate cancer are the bone and lymph nodes. The bone metastases are particularly bothersome in that they can create intense pain for the patient. The current treatment for metastatic prostate cancer includes treatment with flutamide, leuprolide, diethylstilbestrol, and other hormonal manipulations, as well as chemotherapy (doxorubicin, estramustine phosphate, vinblastine, suramin, cisplatin, and others). Unfortunately, none of these agents are consistently helpful in the disease. In addition, as patients with prostate cancer live

longer with their malignancy, they will most likely develop a higher incidence of metastases to the central nervous system (including the spinal cord).

[0015] In general, as patients are living longer with the common malignancies such as breast cancer, lung cancer, bladder cancer, prostate cancer and a variety of other malignancies (because of control of their systemic disease with surgery, radiation therapy and chemotherapy), oncologists are noting that they are developing an increasing incidence of metastatic tumors in the central nervous system including the brain. This is probably because most of the currently available chemotherapy does not cross the blood brain barrier. When the patient (who has their tumor controlled in sites outside of the brain) develops brain metastases, it is a very difficult situation. Options for that patient are usually limited to surgery for a solitary metastasis and/or radiation therapy. However, after those modalities fail, the patient usually has no other options.

[0016] For each of the above indications (primary brain tumors and metastases to the brain from other common tumors such as breast, lung, bladder and prostate cancers), there is a tremendous need for a more effective treatment and/or methods for improving the quality of patient life.

2.5. Esophageal Cancer

[0017] In the U.S., carcinoma of the esophagus represents about 6% of all cancers of the gastrointestinal tract but causes a disproportionate number of cancer deaths. (Boring, C. C., et al.: Cancer statistics, 1993. CA Cancer J. Clin. 43:7, 1993). These cancers usually arise from the epithelial layer of the esophagus and are either squamous cell carcinomas or adenocarcinomas. Overall the 5 year survival is about 5%.

[0018] Squamous cell carcinoma generally occurs after the age of 50 and is more common in males than in females. The incidence varies widely from country to country and between regions within countries. In the U.S. the incidence is between 2 and 8 persons per 100,000 and is more prevalent in blacks than in whites.

[0019] Adenocarcinoma represents 25% of all esophageal CA in the U.S. It is usually

located in the distal one third of the esophagus and may invade the adjacent gastric cardia. It tends to occur in people over 40 years of age and is more common in males than in females. It is more common in whites than in blacks.

2.6. Arsenic And Its Medical Uses

[0020] Arsenic has been considered to be both a poison and a drug for a long time in both Western and Chinese medical practices. In the latter part of the nineteenth century, arsenic was used frequently in attempts to treat diseases of the blood in the West. In 1878, it was reported that treatment of a leukemic patient with Fowler's solution (a solution of potassium arsenite) reduced markedly the count of white blood cells (Cutler and Bradford, *Am. J. Med. Sci.*, January 1878, 81-84). Further interests in the use of Fowler's solution as a palliative agent to treat chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) was described by Forkner and Scott in 1931 (*J. Am. Med. Assoc.*, 1931, iii, 97), and later confirmed by Stephens and Lawrence in 1936 (*Ann. Intern. Med.* 9, 1488-1502). Typically, Fowler's solution was orally administered to leukemic patients as a solution until the level of white blood cells was depressed to an acceptable level or until toxicities (such as skin keratoses and hyperpigmentation) developed, while the patients enjoyed varying periods of remission. In the 1960's, Fowler's solution was still used occasionally in attempts to treat CML, however, most patients with CML were treated with other chemotherapeutic agents, such as busulfan, and/or radiation therapy (Monfardini et al., *Cancer*, 1973, 31:492-501).

[0021] Paradoxically, one of the long recognized effects of exposure to arsenic, whether the source is environmental or medicinal, is skin cancer (Hutchinson, 1888, *Trans. Path. Soc. Lond.*, 39:352; Neubauer, 1947, *Br. J. Cancer*, 1:192). There were even epidemiological data to suggest that the use of Fowler's solution over long periods could lead to an increased incidence of cancer at internal sites (Cuzick et al., *Br. J. Cancer*, 1982, 45:904-911; Kaspar et al., *J. Am. Med. Assoc.*, 1984, 252:3407-3408). The carcinogenicity of arsenic has since been demonstrated by the fact that it can induce chromosomal aberration, gene amplification, sister chromatid exchanges and cellular transformation (See e.g., Lee et al., 1988, *Science*, 241:79-81; and Germolec et al., *Toxicol. Applied Pharmacol.*, 1996, 141:308-318). Because of the known carcinogenic effect of arsenic, its only therapeutic use in human in Western

medicine today is in the treatment of tropical diseases, such as African trypanosomiasis, (melarsoprol, or Arsobal.RTM. by Rhne Poulenc Rorer, Collegeville, Pa.; See Goodman & Gilman's The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics, 9th edition, chapter 66, 1659-1662, 1997).

[0022] In traditional chinese medicine, arsenous acid or arsenic trioxide paste has been used to treat tooth marrow diseases, psoriasis, syphilis and rheumatosis (Chen et al., 1995, in Manual of Clinical Drugs, Shanghai, China, Shanghai Institute of Science and Technology, p.830). In 1970s, arsenic trioxide had been applied experimentally to treat acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL) in China (commented by Mervis, 1996, Science, 273:578). The clinical efficacy of arsenic trioxide has recently been re-investigated in 14 of 15 patients with refractory APL, where the use of an intravenous dose at 10 mg/day for 4-9 weeks was reported to result in complete morphologic remission without associated bone marrow suppression (Shen et al., 1997, Blood, 89:3354-3360). It was also reported that arsenic trioxide induced apoptosis (programmed cell death) in vitro in NB4 cells, an APL cell line, and that apoptosis was apparently associated with down-regulation of the oncogene bcl-2, and intracellular redistribution of the chimeric PML/RAR.alpha. protein that are unique to APL cells (Chen et al., 1996, Blood, 88:1052-1061; Andre et al., 1996, Exp. Cell Res. 229:253-260). Similarly, melarsoprol has been reported to induce apoptosis in cell lines representative of chronic B-cell leukemia (Konig et al., 1997, Blood 90:562-570). Whether apoptosis is induced in APL patients is presently unclear, but it is believed by some to be one of the possible mechanisms of the therapeutic effects of certain arsenic compounds.

[0023] Although arsenic is well known to be both a poison and a carcinogenic agent, there have been many reports concerning the use of arsenic in medical treatment. Identification or discussion of the art above must not be construed as an admission that such is prior art.

[0024] Further, from the above discussion, it should be clear that there are a plethora of different types of cancers, each of which requires a unique treatment protocol. Thus, the development of a broad spectrum anti-cancer agent is extremely desirable. At a minimum, additional effective anti-cancer agents are needed to be added to the

arsenal against cancer.

3. SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0025] Notwithstanding the conflicting reports in the art concerning benefits and risks of the administration of arsenic to patients, applicants have discovered that arsenic compound has broad applicability in the treatment of various cancers, including solid tumors and blood disorders. For example, the present invention encompasses the use of arsenic in the form of a salt, complex, organic compound or ionic solution to treat tumors of epithelial tissue, connective tissue, central nervous system, lymphoid tissue, hematopoietic cells and tumors associated with oncogenic viruses.

[0026] Further, the present invention encompasses the use of arsenic compounds to treat mammals suffering from primary and metastatic neoplastic disease as well as infectious diseases related thereto.

[0027] In addition, this invention also encompasses the use of arsenic compounds to treat primary and metastatic breast lung, bladder and prostate cancers in humans.

[0028] This invention also encompasses the treatment of hematopoietic disorders in mammals by the administration of one or more arsenic compounds to said mammal. The hematopoietic disorders to be treated include but are not limited to polycythemia vera, Hodgkin's Disease, non-Hodgkin's Disease including Follicular Lymphoma, Diffuse Lymphoma, lymphoblastic lymphoma, small lymphocytic lymphoma, acute lymphocytic leukemia, hairy cell leukemia, myeloid metaplasia, myeloid dysplastic syndrome, multiple myeloma and plasmacytoma.

[0029] In accordance with the present invention, arsenic compounds can be used alone or in combination with other known therapeutic agents (including chemotherapeutics, radioprotectants and radiotherapeutics) or techniques to either improve the quality of life of the patient, or to treat the primary neoplastic disease. For example, the arsenic compounds can be used before, during or after the administration of one or more known antitumor agents including but not limited to mustard compounds, nitrogen mustard, chlorambucil, melphalan, cyclophosphamide,

6-mercaptopurine, 6-thioguanine, cytarabine, 5-fluorouracil, floxuridine, methotrexate, vincristine, vinblastine, taxol, etoposide, temiposide, dactinomycin, daunorubicin, doxorubicin, bleomycin, mitomycin, cisplatin, carboplatin, estramustine phosphate, hydroxyurea, BCNU, procarbazine, VM-26 (vumon), interferons and all-trans retinoic acid (ATRA), (See for example, the Physician Desk References 1997). In addition, the arsenic compounds can be used before, during or after irradiation treatment. For the treatment of HIV-infected individuals, the arsenic compounds can be used alone or in combination with AZT, ddI, ddA, ddC, d4T, 3TC and other known antiviral agents.

[0030] The invention described herein encompasses a method of treating primary and metastatic neoplastic diseases, a method of treating solid tumors, a method of treating leukemias, a method of treating cancers related to bcl-2 (oncogene), each of which comprises the administration of a therapeutically effective and non-lethal amount of one or more arsenic compounds to a mammal in need of such therapy. The invention, as mentioned above also encompasses the use of combination therapy to treat the aforementioned diseases.

[0031] In a particular embodiment, the arsenic compounds are used within a method to treat breast, lung, colon, ovarian, renal, non-small cell lung, central nervous system, bladder, prostate and head and neck cancer by administering an effective amount of one or more arsenic compounds alone or in combination with other antineoplastic agents or therapeutic techniques including radiotherapy and surgery.

[0032] Without being limited by any theory, the inventors believe that the arsenic compounds of the invention may have one or more mechanisms of action in connection with the methods described herein. For example, the arsenic compounds may act as a phosphorous analogue which interferes with the phosphorylation events that occur in signal transduction involved in apoptosis. Arsenic may also act as an inhibitor of angiogenesis, i.e., the formation of new blood vessels, thereby limiting blood flow to proliferating preneoplastic cell masses, tumors and metastases. It is well known that if a tumor is not invaded by blood capillaries, it would have to depend on the diffusion of nutrients from its surroundings and cannot enlarge beyond a certain size. Arsenic may also function as a differentiating agent which causes dividing

preneoplastic and/or cancer cells that display an undifferentiated or underdifferentiated phenotype to develop into terminally differentiated cells, and die after a finite number of cell divisions. Finally, arsenic may also act to sensitize the cancer cells to radiation and/or chemotherapy. Thus, the arsenic compounds of the invention are described as being useful against a variety of cancers.

[0033] Specific therapeutic regimens, pharmaceutical compositions, and kits are also provided by the invention. Thus, the invention also encompasses pharmaceutical compositions which comprise one or more arsenic compounds and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. The compositions are sterile solutions suitable for intravenous injection or infusion. In another embodiment the invention encompasses a composition suitable for oral delivery; comprising one or more arsenic compounds and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or carrier. In another embodiment, the invention also includes compositions suitable for topical or dermal delivery.

[0034] Particular compositions of the invention and their properties are described in the sections and subsections which follow.

4. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0035] FIGS. 1A-1I. Dose response curves showing percentage growth of various cancer cell lines after continuous exposure to 10^{-5} to 10^{-9} micro/ml of arsenic trioxide for 2 days. FIG. 1A. Leukemic cell lines CCRF-CEM, HL-60 (TB), K-562, MOLT-4, RPMI-8226, SR. FIG. 1B. Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer cell lines A549/ATCC, EKVX, HOP-62, HOP-92, NCI-H226, NCI-H23, NCI-8322M, NCI-H460, NCI-H522. FIG. 1C. Colon Cancer cell lines COLO 205, HCT-116, HCT-15, HT29, KM12, SW620. FIG. 1D. CNS Cancer cell lines SF-268, SF-295, SF-539, SNB-19, SNB-75, U251. FIG. 1E. Melanoma cell lines LOX 1MV1, MALME-3M, M14, SK-MEL-2, SK-MEL-28, SK-MEL-5, UACC-257, UACC-62. FIG. 1F. Ovarian Cancer cell lines IGROV1, OVCAR-3, OVCAR-5, OVCAR-8, SK-OV-3. FIG. 1G. Renal Cancer cell lines A498, CAKI-1, RXE 393, SN12C, TX-10, UO-31. FIG. 1H. Prostate Cancer cell lines PC-3, DU-145. FIG. 1I. Breast Cancer cell lines MCF7, NCI/ADR-RES, MDA-MB-435, MDA-N, BT-549, T-47D.

[0036] FIG. 2. Mean graphs showing selectivity patterns at each of the principal response parameters for all the cell lines tested after continuous exposure to 10^{-5} to 10^{-9} microg/ml of arsenic trioxide for 2 days.

[0037] FIG. 3A-3I. Dose response curves showing percentage growth of various cancer cell lines after continuous exposure to 10^{-5} to 10^{-9} microg/ml of arsenic trioxide for 6 days. FIG. 3A. Leukemic cell lines CCRF-CEM, K-562, MOLT-4, RPMI-8226. FIG. 3B. Non-small Cell Lung Cancer cell lines EKVX, HOP-62, HOP-92, NCI-H226, NCI-H23, NCI-H322M, NCI-H460, NCI-H522. FIG. 3C. Colon Cancer cell lines COLO 205, HCT-116, HCT-15, HT29, KM12, SW-620. FIG. 3D. CNS Cancer cell lines SF-268, SF-295, SF-539, SNB-75, U251. FIG. 3E. Melanoma cell lines LOX IMVI, MALMI-3M, SK-MEL-2, SK-MEL-28, SK-MEL-5, UACC-257, UACC-62. FIG. 3F. Ovarian Cancer cell lines IGROVI, OVCAR-3, OVCAR-5, OVCAR-8, SK-OV-3. FIG. 3G. Renal Cancer cell lines 786-O, A498, CAKI-1, RXF-393, S12C, TK-10. FIG. 3H. Prostate Cancer cell lines DU-145. FIG. 3I. Breast Cancer cell lines MCF7, NCI/ADR-RIS, MDA-MB-231/ATCC, HS 578T, MDA-MB-435, MDA-N, BR-549, T-47D.

[0038] FIG. 4. Mean graphs showing selectivity patterns at each of the principal response parameters for all the cell lines tested after continuous exposure to 10^{-5} to 10^{-9} microg/ml of arsenic trioxide for 6 days.

5. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0039] Methods and compositions for the treatment of primary and metastatic neoplastic diseases are described herein. The invention is based, in part, on a dosage regimen for administration of compositions comprising arsenic. The invention is also based in part, on the potency of the arsenic compounds of the invention against certain cancers.

[0040] This invention includes a method of treating primary solid tumors in a mammal which comprises administering to a mammal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective and non-lethal amount of one or more arsenic compound.

[0041] The invention also includes a method of treating metastatic tumors in a mammal which comprises administering to a mammal a therapeutically effective and non-lethal dose of one or more arsenic compound.

[0042] The invention includes a method for treating disorders of blood in mammal which comprises administering one or more arsenic compound in a therapeutically effective and non-lethal amount.

[0043] The arsenic compound of the invention may be utilized in in a variety of known forms; for example, arsenic can be administered as a salt, an organic or inorganic complex, an organic chelate, an organic compound or an organic or inorganic solution. It is preferred that the form be chosen to reduce toxicity and improve efficacy. Further, the form chosen may also depend on the type and location of the tumor in question. The inorganic salt forms of arsenic are preferred. For example, inorganic salts such as arsenic triiodide, arsenic(III)bromide, arsenic(III)chloride, arsenic pentoxide, arsenic trioxide, Fowler's solution (potassium arsenite), sodium arsenite, and calcium arsenite may be used. Arsenic trioxide is most preferred. Both arsenous acids and arsenites as well as arsenic acids and arsenates may be used within the present methods. Aqueous solutions containing arsenite ions are preferred. Further, arsenic sulfides may be used such as arsenous sulfide, arsenic sulfide, arsenic pentasulfide, tetraarsenic trisulfide and tetraarsenic pentasulfide. Without being limited by any theory, certain of these arsenic compounds may be prodrugs to an active species.

[0044] Generally, the skilled artisan will recognize that the form of arsenic to be used should be therapeutically effective without unreasonable toxicity. The toxicity is dependent upon the dose, the dosage form, the mode of administration and frequency of dosing. Generally, the skilled artisan can chose from the following known forms of arsenic: arsenic halides, arsenic oxides, arsenic acids, arsenic sulfides, and the like.

[0045] Arsenic can also be readily combined with carbon to form a wide variety of organic compounds. These include but are not limited to primary and secondary arsines, tertiary arsines, halo arsines, dihalo arsines, cyclic and polymeric substances containing arsenic; specific examples of organic arsenic compounds include but are

not limited to 3-Nitro-4-hydroxyphenylarsonic acid, arsanilic acid, sodium hydrogen 4-aminophenylarsenate, melarsoprol, melarsonyl potassium, carbarsone, arsenamide arspenamine and sodium arsanilate.

[0046] As used herein, "arsenic compound" refers to a pharmaceutically acceptable form of arsenic including salts, solutions, complexes, chelates and organic and inorganic compounds incorporating arsenic. It should be recognized that the invention includes arsenic prodrugs or compounds that are converted in vivo to biologically active forms of arsenic. Such prodrugs may be used to reduce or avoid the well known potential for arsenic toxicity. The arsenic compounds of the present invention can be synthesized or commercially purchased. For example, the compounds can be prepared from well-known chemical techniques. (See for example, Kirk-Othmer, Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology 4 ed. volume 3 pps. 633-655 John Wiley & Sons).

[0047] In one embodiment, the arsenic compound of the invention is arsenic trioxide which is dissolved in an aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide, with the pH adjusted to a physiologically acceptable range, e.g. about pH 6-8.

[0048] Any suitable mode of administration may be used in accordance with the present invention including but not limited to parenteral administration such as intravenous, subcutaneous, intramuscular and intrathecal administration; oral, intranasal, rectal or vaginal administration may also be used; directly into the tumor; transdermal patches; implant devices (particularly for slow release); finally, topical administration may be used. The mode of administration will vary according to the type of arsenic compound being used and the disease to be treated.

[0049] The pharmaceutical compositions to be used may be in the form of sterile physiologically acceptable (aqueous or organic) solutions, colloidal suspensions, creams, ointments, pastes, capsules, caplets, tablets and cachets. The pharmaceutical compositions comprising arsenic compounds of the invention can be contained in sealed sterile glass containers and/or ampoules. Further, the active ingredient may be micro-encapsulated, encapsulated in a liposome, noisome or lipof foam alone or in conjunction with targeting antibodies. It should be recognized that delayed slow or sustained release forms of administration are also included.

[0050] The arsenic compounds of the present invention may be used against a variety of primary and metastatic neoplastic diseases including but not limited to primary and metastatic tumors of the central nervous system, breast, colon, ovaries, kidneys, lung, bladder, prostate and head and neck.

[0051] More specifically, the arsenic compounds of the present invention can be used to treat tumors of epithelial origin including but not limited to:

squamous cell carcinoma, basal cell carcinoma, melanoma, tumors of epithelial lining of glands or ducts: adenocarcinoma papillary carcinoma, papillary adenocarcinoma, tumors of the liver and biliary tract: Hepatocellular carcinoma, tumors of the gastrointestinal tract: squamous cell carcinoma of the esophagus, adenocarcinoma of the esophagus, colorectal carcinoma (colon cancer), gastric carcinoma (stomach cancer), tumors of respiratory tract: bronchogenic carcinoma, small cell carcinoma, large cell carcinoma, tumors of the urogenital tract: transitional cell carcinomas of bladder, squamous cell carcinoma of bladder, carcinoma of prostate, carcinoma of cervix, tumors of breast, tumors of blood cells and related cells (leukemias): acute and chronic lymphocytic leukemia, polycythemia vera, Cancers of Lymphoid tissue, Malignant Lymphomas - Hodgkins Lymphoma, Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma- Follicular lymphoma, Diffuse lymphoma, Small lymphocytic lymphoma, Large cell lymphoma, Lymphoblastic lymphoma, Multiple myeloma, Tumors of Connective Tissue, Cancers of Bone, Osteosarcoma Tumors of the Nervous System, Neuroblastoma, Retinoblastoma, Glioblastoma, Oligodendroglioma, Tumors associated with oncogenic viruses, Human Papillomavirus - squamous cell carcinoma of cervix Epstein-Barr Virus - Burkitts Lymphoma, B cell lymphoma's in immuno-comprised individuals, Nasopharyngeal carcinoma

[0052] Hepatitis B Virus--Hepatocellular Carcinoma

[0053] Herpes Virus 8 or Kaposi Sarcoma Herpes Virus (KSHV)--Kaposi's Sarcoma, and the like. Other neoplastic diseases known to the skilled artisan are also encompassed by the present invention including cancer of the oral cavity, larynx, kidney, testis and ovary. The skilled artisan will recognize that other cancers may be

treated in accordance with the present invention.

[0054] The term "a method for treating primary and metastatic tumors of the central nervous system" as used herein means that the disease and the symptoms associated with the disease are alleviated, reduced, cured, or otherwise placed in a state of remission.

[0055] As used herein, the terms "a method for treating primary or metastatic breast, lung, bladder or prostate cancer" and "a method for treating metastases from breast, lung, bladder or prostate cancer" means that the disease and the symptoms associated with the disease are alleviated, reduced, cured, or placed in a state of remission. In addition, the term "a method for treating metastases from breast, lung, bladder or prostate cancer" means that the metastatic tumors and the symptoms associated with the disease are alleviated, reduced, cured, placed in a state of remission.

[0056] The term "refractory" when used herein means that malignancies are generally resistant to treatment or cure. The term "refractory" when used in the above terms, means that the malignancies which are generally resistant to treatment or cure are alleviated, reduced, cured, or placed in a state of remission.

[0057] As used herein the terms "a therapeutic agent", "therapeutic regimen", "radioprotectant", "chemotherapeutic" mean conventional drugs and drug therapies, including vaccines, for treating cancer, viral infections, and other malignancies, which are known to those skilled in the art. "Radiotherapeutic" agents are well known in the art.

[0058] As used herein, "a method of treating cancer" or "a method of treating solid tumors" or "a method of treating neoplastic diseases" means that the disease and the symptoms associated with the disease are alleviated, reduced, cured, or placed in a state of remission. Further, tumor growth is inhibited and/or tumor size is reduced.

[0059] As used herein, "preneoplastic" cell refers to a cell which is in transition from a normal to a neoplastic form; and morphological evidence, increasingly supported by molecular biologic studies, indicates that preneoplasia progresses through multiple

steps. Non-neoplastic cell growth commonly consists of hyperplasia, metaplasia, or most particularly, dysplasia (for review of such abnormal growth conditions (See Robbins and Angell, 1976, Basic Pathology, 2d Ed., W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia, pp. 68-79). Hyperplasia is a form of controlled cell proliferation involving an increase in cell number in a tissue or organ, without significant alteration in structure or function. As but one example, endometrial hyperplasia often precedes endometrial cancer. Metaplasia is a form of controlled cell growth in which one type of adult or fully differentiated cell substitutes for another type of adult cell. Metaplasia can occur in epithelial or connective tissue cells. Atypical metaplasia involves a somewhat disorderly metaplastic epithelium. Dysplasia is frequently a forerunner of cancer, and is found mainly in the epithelia; it is the most disorderly form of non-neoplastic cell growth, involving a loss in individual cell uniformity and in the architectural orientation of cells. Dysplastic cells often have abnormally large, deeply stained nuclei, and exhibit pleomorphism. Dysplasia characteristically occurs where there exists chronic irritation or inflammation, and is often found in the cervix, respiratory passages, oral cavity, and gall bladder. Although preneoplastic lesions may progress to neoplasia, they may also remain stable for long periods and may even regress, particularly if the inciting agent is removed or if the lesion succumbs to an immunological attack by its host.

[0060] The therapeutic regimens and pharmaceutical compositions of the invention may be used with additional immune response enhancers or biological response modifiers including, but not limited to, the cytokines IFN-.alpha., IFN-.gamma., IL-2, IL-4, IL-6, TNF, or other immunostimulants/immunomodulators. In accordance with this aspect of the invention, the arsenic compounds are administered in combination therapy with one or more of these agents.

5.1. Formulation

[0061] The arsenic compounds of the invention may be formulated into pharmaceutical preparations for administration to mammals for treatment of cancer. Compositions comprising a compound of the invention formulated in a compatible pharmaceutical carrier may be prepared, packaged, labelled for treatment of and used for the treatment of the indicated tumor, such as human sarcomas and carcinomas,

e.g., fibrosarcoma, myxosarcoma, liposarcoma, chondrosarcoma, osteogenic sarcoma, chordoma, angiosarcoma, endotheliosarcoma, lymphangiosarcoma, lymphangioendotheliosarcoma, synovioma, mesothelioma, Ewing's tumor, leiomyosarcoma, rhabdomyosarcoma, colon carcinoma, pancreatic cancer, breast cancer, ovarian cancer, prostate cancer, squamous cell carcinoma, basal cell carcinoma, adenocarcinoma, sweat gland carcinoma, sebaceous gland carcinoma, papillary carcinoma, papillary adenocarcinomas, cystadenocarcinoma, medullary carcinoma, bronchogenic carcinoma, renal cell carcinoma, hepatoma, bile duct carcinoma, choriocarcinoma, seminoma, embryonal carcinoma, Wilms' tumor, cervical cancer, testicular tumor, lung carcinoma, small cell lung carcinoma, bladder carcinoma, epithelial carcinoma, glioma, astrocytoma, medulloblastoma, craniopharyngioma, ependymoma, pinealoma, hemangioblastoma, acoustic neuroma, oligodendroglioma, meningioma, melanoma, neuroblastoma, retinoblastoma; leukemias, e.g., acute lymphocytic leukemia (myeloblastic, promyelocytic, myelomonocytic, monocytic and erythroleukemia); chronic leukemia and chronic lymphocytic leukemia; and polycythemia vera, lymphoma (Hodgkin's disease and non-Hodgkin's disease), multiple myeloma, Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia, and heavy chain disease. Alternatively, it can be labeled for treatment of the appropriate infectious disease. Alternatively, pharmaceutical compositions may be formulated for treatment of appropriate infectious diseases.

[0062] If the complex is water-soluble, then it may be formulated in an appropriate buffer, for example, phosphate buffered saline or other physiologically compatible solutions. Alternatively, if the resulting complex has poor solubility in aqueous solvents, then it may be formulated with a non-ionic surfactant such as Tween, polyethylene glycol or glycerine. Thus, the compounds and their physiologically acceptable solvates may be formulated for administration by inhalation or insufflation (either through the mouth or the nose) or oral, buccal, parenteral, topical, dermal, vaginal, drug delivery device, e.g., porous or viscous material such as lipof foam, rectal administration or, in the case of tumors, directly injected into a solid tumor.

[0063] For oral administration, the pharmaceutical preparation may be in liquid form, for example, solutions, syrups or suspensions, or may be presented as a drug product for reconstitution with water or other suitable vehicle before use. Such liquid

preparations may be prepared by conventional means with pharmaceutically acceptable additives such as suspending agents (e.g., sorbitol syrup, cellulose derivatives or hydrogenated edible fats); emulsifying agents (e.g., lecithin or acacia); non-aqueous vehicles (e.g., almond oil, oily esters, or fractionated vegetable oils); and preservatives (e.g., methyl or propyl-p-hydroxybenzoates or sorbic acid). The pharmaceutical compositions may take the form of, for example, tablets or capsules prepared by conventional means with pharmaceutically acceptable excipients such as binding agents (e.g., pregelatinized maize starch, polyvinyl pyrrolidone or hydroxypropyl methylcellulose); fillers (e.g., lactose, microcrystalline cellulose or calcium hydrogen phosphate); lubricants (e.g., magnesium stearate, talc or silica); disintegrants (e.g., potato starch or sodium starch glycolate); or wetting agents (e.g., sodium lauryl sulphate). The tablets may be coated by methods well-known in the art.

[0064] Preparations for oral administration may be suitably formulated to give controlled release of the active compound.

[0065] For buccal administration, the compositions may take the form of tablets or lozenges formulated in conventional manner.

[0066] For administration by inhalation, the compounds for use according to the present invention are conveniently delivered in the form of an aerosol spray presentation from pressurized packs or a nebulizer, with the use of a suitable propellant, e.g., dichlorodifluoromethane, trichlorofluoromethane, dichlorotetrafluoroethane, carbon dioxide or other suitable gas. In the case of a pressurized aerosol the dosage unit may be determined by providing a valve to deliver a metered amount. Capsules and cartridges of, e.g., gelatin for use in an inhaler or insufflator may be formulated containing a powder mix of the compound and a suitable powder base such as lactose or starch.

[0067] The compounds may be formulated for parenteral administration by injection, e.g., by bolus injection or continuous infusion. Such formulations are sterile. Formulations for injection may be presented in unit dosage form, e.g., in ampules or in multi-dose containers, with an added preservative. The compositions may take such forms as suspensions, solutions or emulsions in oily or aqueous vehicles, and may

contain formulatory agents such as suspending, stabilizing and/or dispersing agents. Alternatively, the active ingredient may be in powder form for constitution with a suitable vehicle, e.g., sterile pyrogen-free water, before use.

[0068] The compounds may also be formulated in rectal compositions such as suppositories or retention enemas, e.g., containing conventional suppository bases such as cocoa butter or other glycerides.

[0069] In addition to the formulations described previously, the compounds may also be formulated as a depot preparation. Such long acting formulations may be administered by implantation (for example, subcutaneously or intramuscularly) or by intramuscular injection. Thus, for example, the compounds may be formulated with suitable polymeric or hydrophobic materials (for example, as an emulsion in an acceptable oil) or ion exchange resins, or as sparingly soluble derivatives, for example, as a sparingly soluble salt. Liposomes and emulsions are well known examples of delivery vehicles or carriers for hydrophilic drugs.

[0070] The compositions may, if desired, be presented in a pack or dispenser device which may contain one or more unit dosage forms containing the active ingredient. The pack may for example comprise metal or plastic foil, such as a blister pack. The pack or dispenser device may be accompanied by instructions for administration.

[0071] The invention also provides kits for carrying out the therapeutic regimens of the invention. Such kits comprise in one or more containers therapeutically effective amounts of the arsenic compounds in pharmaceutically acceptable form. The arsenic compound in a vial of a kit of the invention may be in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable solution, e.g., in combination with sterile saline, dextrose solution, or buffered solution, or other pharmaceutically acceptable sterile fluid. Alternatively, the complex may be lyophilized or desiccated; in this instance, the kit optionally further comprises in a container a pharmaceutically acceptable solution (e.g., saline, dextrose solution, etc.), preferably sterile, to reconstitute the complex to form a solution for injection purposes.

[0072] In another embodiment, a kit of the invention further comprises a needle or

syringe, preferably packaged in sterile form, for injecting the complex, and/or a packaged alcohol pad. Instructions are optionally included for administration of arsenic compounds by a clinician or by the patient.

[0073] The magnitude of a therapeutic dose of an arsenic compound in the acute or chronic management of cancer will vary with the severity of the condition to be treated and the route of administration. The dose, and perhaps dose frequency, will also vary according to the age, body weight, condition and response of the individual patient. In general, the total daily dose ranges for the conditions described herein are generally from about 10 microg to about 200 mg administered in divided doses administered parenterally or orally or topically. A preferred total daily dose is from about 0.5 mg to about 70 mg of the active ingredient.

[0074] Desirable blood levels may be maintained by a continuous infusion of an arsenic compound as ascertained by plasma levels. It should be noted that the attending physician would know how to and when to terminate, interrupt or adjust therapy to lower dosage due to toxicity, or bone marrow, liver or kidney dysfunctions. Conversely, the attending physician would also know how to and when to adjust treatment to higher levels if the clinical response is not adequate (precluding toxic side effects).

[0075] Again, any suitable route of administration may be employed for providing the patient with an effective dosage of an arsenic compound. For example, oral, rectal, vaginal, transdermal, parenteral (subcutaneous, intramuscular, intrathecal and the like) may be employed. Dosage forms include tablets, troches, cachet, dispersions, suspensions, solutions, capsules, patches, and the like. (See, Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences.)

[0076] The pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention comprise an arsenic compound as the active ingredient, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and may also contain a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and optionally, other therapeutic ingredients, for example antivirals. The term "pharmaceutically acceptable salts" refers to salts prepared from pharmaceutically acceptable non-toxic acids and bases, including inorganic and organic acids and bases.

[0077] The pharmaceutical compositions include compositions suitable for oral, rectal, mucosal routes, transdermal, parenteral (including subcutaneous, intramuscular, intrathecal and intravenous), although the most suitable route in any given case will depend on the nature and severity of the condition being treated.

[0078] In the case where an intravenous injection or infusion composition is employed, a suitable dosage range for use is, e.g., from about 0.5 mg to about 150 mg total daily dose.

[0079] In addition, the arsenic carrier could be delivered via charged and uncharged matrices used as drug delivery devices such as cellulose acetate membranes, also through targeted delivery systems such as fusogenic liposomes attached to antibodies or specific antigens.

[0080] In practical use, an arsenic compound can be combined as the active ingredient in intimate admixture with a pharmaceutical carrier according to conventional pharmaceutical compounding techniques. The carrier may take a wide variety of forms depending on the form of preparation desired for administration, e.g., oral or parenteral (including tablets, capsules, powders, intravenous injections or infusions). In preparing the compositions for oral dosage form any of the usual pharmaceutical media may be employed, e.g., water, glycols, oils, alcohols, flavoring agents, preservatives, coloring agents, and the like; in the case of oral liquid preparations, e.g., suspensions, solutions, elixirs, liposomes and aerosols; starches, sugars, micro-crystalline cellulose, diluents, granulating agents, lubricants, binders, disintegrating agents, and the like in the case of oral solid preparations e.g., powders, capsules, and tablets. In preparing the compositions for parenteral dosage form, such as intravenous injection or infusion, similar pharmaceutical media may be employed, e.g., water, glycols, oils, buffers, sugar, preservatives and the like known to those skilled in the art. Examples of such parenteral compositions include, but are not limited to Dextrose 5% w/v, normal saline or other solutions. The total dose of the arsenic compound may be administered in a vial of intravenous fluid, e.g., ranging from about 2 ml to about 2000 ml. The volume of dilution fluid will vary according to the total dose administered.

5.2. Target Cancers

[0081] Cancers that can be treated by the methods of the present invention include, but not limited to human sarcomas and carcinomas, e.g., fibrosarcoma, myxosarcoma, liposarcoma, chondrosarcoma, osteogenic sarcoma, chordoma, angiosarcoma, endotheliosarcoma, lymphangiosarcoma, lymphangioendotheliosarcoma, synovioma, mesothelioma, Ewing's tumor, leiomyosarcoma, rhabdomyosarcoma, colon carcinoma, pancreatic cancer, breast cancer, ovarian cancer, prostate cancer, squamous cell carcinoma, basal cell carcinoma, adenocarcinoma, sweat gland carcinoma, sebaceous gland carcinoma, papillary carcinoma, papillary adenocarcinomas, cystadenocarcinoma, medullary carcinoma, bronchogenic carcinoma, renal cell carcinoma, hepatoma, bile duct carcinoma, choriocarcinoma, seminoma, embryonal carcinoma, Wilms' tumor, cervical cancer, testicular tumor, lung carcinoma, small cell lung carcinoma, bladder carcinoma, epithelial carcinoma, glioma, astrocytoma, medulloblastoma, craniopharyngioma, ependymoma, pinealoma, hemangioblastoma, acoustic neuroma, oligodendroglioma, meningioma, melanoma, neuroblastoma, retinoblastoma; leukemias, e.g., acute lymphocytic leukemia (myeloblastic, myelomonocytic, monocytic and erythroleukemia); and chronic lymphocytic leukemia; and polycythemia vera, lymphoma (Hodgkin's disease and non-Hodgkin's disease), multiple myeloma, Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia, and heavy chain disease. Specific examples of such cancers are described in the sections below.

[0082] In a specific embodiment the cancer is metastatic. In another specific embodiment, the patient having a cancer is immunosuppressed by reason of having undergone anti-cancer therapy (e.g., chemotherapy radiation) prior to administration of the arsenic compounds of the invention.

[0083] In a specific embodiment, the present invention provides compositions and methods for enhancing tumor specific immunity in individuals suffering from colorectal cancer metastasized to the liver, in order to inhibit the progression of the neoplastic disease. Preferred methods of treating these neoplastic diseases comprise administering a composition of arsenic which elicits an immune response against tumor cells.

[0084] In another specific embodiment, the present invention provides compositions and methods for enhancing specific immunity in individuals suffering from hepatocellular carcinoma in order to inhibit the progression of the neoplastic disease and ultimately irradiate all preneoplastic and neoplastic cells.

[0085] In a specific embodiment, the present invention provides hsp compositions and methods for enhancing specific immunity to preneoplastic and neoplastic mammary cells in women. The present invention also provides compositions and methods for inhibiting cancer cell proliferation and metastasis. These compositions can be applied alone or in combination with each other or with biological response modifiers.

6. WORKING EXAMPLES

[0086] The following subsections describe the testing of a pharmaceutical composition comprising arsenic trioxide in vitro using a panel of cancer cell lines employed by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). The results demonstrate that arsenic trioxide is effective in inhibiting the growth of a broad range of leukemic cells and cancer cells in vitro.

6.1. METHODS AND MATERIALS

[0087] Arsenic trioxide (1 mg/ml, 10 mg/ampoule, manufactured by Taylor Pharmaceuticals, Decatur, Ill.) was tested at five concentrations each at 10-fold dilutions, i.e., 10^{-5} , 10^{-6} , 10^{-7} , 10^{-8} and 10^{-9} microg/ml.

[0088] The in vitro tests were performed by incubating the test cells in the presence of the indicated concentration of arsenic trioxide under standard culture conditions for a designated period of time, which is followed by a sulforhodamine B (SRB) protein assay to estimate cell viability or growth. The cell lines are organized into subpanels according to the origin of the cell lines, e.g., leukemia, breast cancer, etc. A description of the cell lines and method of testing is described in Monk et al. (1997, Anticancer Drug Des. 12:533-41) and Weinstein et al., (1997, Science 275:343-9), which are incorporated herein in their entirety.

[0089] Described below are the data analysis procedures and displays.

[0090] The measurement of an effect is expressed in Percentage Growth (PG). The measured effect of the compound on a cell line is calculated according to one or the other of the following two expressions:

If $(\text{Mean OD}_{\text{test}} - \text{Mean OD}_{\text{zero}}) \geq 0$, then $\text{PG} = 100 \cdot (\text{Mean OD}_{\text{test}} - \text{Mean OD}_{\text{zero}}) / (\text{Mean OD}_{\text{ctrl}} - \text{Mean OD}_{\text{zero}})$

If $(\text{Mean OD}_{\text{test}} - \text{Mean OD}_{\text{zero}}) < 0$, then $\text{PG} = 100 \cdot (\text{Mean OD}_{\text{test}} - \text{Mean OD}_{\text{zero}}) / (\text{Mean OD}_{\text{zero}} - \text{Mean OD}_{\text{ctrl}})$

[0091] where:

[0092] $\text{Mean OD}_{\text{zero}}$ = the average of optical density measurements of SRB-derived color just before exposure of cells to the test compounds;

[0093] $\text{Mean OD}_{\text{test}}$ = the average of optical density measurements of SRB-derived color after exposure of cells to the test compound for a designated period of time; and

[0094] $\text{Mean OD}_{\text{ctrl}}$ = the average of optical density measurements of SRB-derived color after with no exposure of cells to the test compound for a designated period of time

[0095] Table 1 and 2 present the experimental data collected against each cell line. The first two columns describe the subpanel (e.g., leukemia) and cell line (e.g., CCRF-CEM) involved. The next two columns list the $\text{Mean OD}_{\text{zero}}$ and $\text{Mean OD}_{\text{ctrl}}$; the next five columns list the $\text{Mean OD}_{\text{test}}$ for each of five different concentrations. Each concentration is expressed as the \log_{10} (molar or microg/ml). The next five columns list the calculated PGs for each concentration. The response parameters GI50, TGI and LC50 are interpolated values representing the concentrations at which the PG is +50, 0, and -50, respectively. Sometimes these response parameters cannot be obtained by interpolation. If, for instance, all of the PGs in a given row exceed

+50, then none of the three parameters can be obtained by interpolation. In such a case, the value given for each response parameter is the highest concentration tested and is preceded by a ">" sign. This practice is extended similarly to the other possible situations where a response parameter cannot be obtained by interpolation.

[0096] A dose-response curve (see FIGS. 1A-1I and 3A-3I) for the set of data is created by plotting the PGs against the \log_{10} of the corresponding concentration for every cell line. The cell line curves are grouped by subpanel. Horizontal lines are provided at the PG value of +50, 0, and -50. The concentrations corresponding to points where the curves cross these lines are the GI50, TGI, and LC50, respectively.

[0097] A mean graph (FIGS. 2 and 4) facilitates visual scanning of data for potential patterns of selectivity for particular cell lines or for particular subpanels with respect to a selected response parameter. Differences in apparent selectivity patterns may occur for the same compound against the same cell lines when different parameters are compared. The mean graphs page of the data package shows mean graphs at each of the principal response parameters: GI50, TGI, and LC50. Bars extending to the right represent sensitivity of the cell line to the test agent in excess of the average sensitivity of all tested cell lines. Since the bar scale is logarithmic, a bar 2 units to the right implies the compound achieved the response parameter (e.g., GI50) for the cell line at a concentration one-hundredth the mean concentration required over all cell lines, and thus the cell line is unusually sensitive to that compound. Bars extending to the left correspondingly imply sensitivity less than the mean. If for a particular drug and cell line, it was not possible to determine the desired response parameter by interpolation, the bar length shown is either the highest concentration tested (and the listed \log_{10} of the response parameter will be preceded by a ">") or the lowest concentration tested (and the listed \log_{10} will be preceded by a "<").

[0098] The values at either limit (> or <) are also calculated in the mean used for the mean graph. Therefore, the mean used in the mean graph may not be the actual mean of the GI50 for instance. For this reason, this value is referred to as the MG_MID (for mean graph midpoint).

6.2. RESULTS

[0099] The results of two sets of tests is presented below. In the first set, the cells from 56 different cancer cell lines were exposed to five concentrations of arsenic trioxide continuously for two days prior to performing the SRB assay. In the second set, the cells from 50 different cell lines (a subset of the first 56 cell lines, plus the renal cancer cell line 786-0) were exposed continuously for six days prior to the SRB assay.

TABLE 1

	Time	Log10 Concentration										Percent Growth									
		Mean Optical Densities																			
	Zero	Cut1	-8.9	-7.9	-6.9	-5.9	-4.9	-8.9	-7.9	-6.9	-5.9	-4.9	GI50	TGI	LC50						
Leukemia																					
CCR6-CEM	0.300	1.155	1.203	1.195	1.134	0.704	0.285	106	105	98	47	-5	1.11E-06	1.00E-05	>1.26E-05						
HL-60(TB)	0.233	0.530	0.533	0.507	0.535	0.499	0.213	101	92	102	90	-9	3.19E-06	1.03E-05	>1.26E-05						
K-562	0.209	1.416	1.387	1.431	1.418	1.124	0.199	98	101	100	76	-5	2.63E-06	1.10E-05	>1.26E-05						
MOLT-4	0.134	0.438	0.465	0.454	0.454	0.368	0.146	109	105	105	77	4	2.96E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05						
RPMI-8226	0.257	0.893	0.868	0.848	0.813	0.670	0.204	96	93	87	65	-21	1.88E-06	7.23E-06	>1.26E-05						
SR	0.158	0.457	0.454	0.425	0.457	0.338	0.111	99	89	100	60	-30	1.63E-06	5.85E-06	>1.26E-05						
Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer																					
A549/ATCC	0.015	0.477	0.479	0.486	0.476	0.516	0.336	100	102	100	108	69	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05						
EKVX	0.342	0.736	0.809	0.849	0.841	0.853	0.385	119	129	127	130	11	5.91E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05						
HOP-62	0.335	1.109	1.088	1.099	1.113	1.086	0.605	97	99	100	97	35	7.18E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05						
HOP-92	0.505	1.694	1.554	1.603	1.477	1.381	0.873	88	92	82	74	31	4.50E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05						
NCI-H226	0.560	0.932	0.967	0.918	0.967	0.967	0.904	109	96	109	109	92	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05						
NCI-H23	0.648	1.622	1.769	1.822	1.880	1.635	1.215	115	121	127	101	58	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05						
NCI-8322M	0.382	0.997	1.103	1.036	0.976	0.992	0.755	117	106	97	99	61	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05						
NCI-H460	0.296	1.235	1.132	1.186	1.234	1.157	0.757	89	95	100	92	49	1.20E-05	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05						
NCI-H522	0.478	1.138	1.332	1.135	1.189	0.892	0.378	129	100	108	63	-21	1.79E-06	7.08E-06	>1.26E-05						
Colon Cancer																					
COLO 205	0.328	1.394	1.425	1.414	1.576	1.434	0.935	103	102	117	104	57	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05						
HCT-116	0.301	1.574	1.508	1.480	1.488	1.391	0.685	95	93	93	86	30	5.53E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05						
HCT-15	0.219	1.623	1.800	1.627	1.673	1.522	0.504	113	100	104	93	20	4.90E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05						
HT29	0.095	0.578	0.637	0.599	0.580	0.479	0.169	112	104	100	80	15	3.63E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05						
KM12	0.189	0.741	0.744	0.728	0.777	0.737	0.567	101	98	106	99	68	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05						
SW-620	0.153	0.886	0.898	0.868	0.857	0.779	0.267	102	98	96	85	16	4.05E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05						
CNS Cancer																					
SF-268	0.203	0.767	0.821	0.736	0.815	0.767	0.334	110	94	108	100	23	5.63E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05						
SF-295	0.249	1.007	0.951	0.978	0.938	0.938	0.639	93	96	91	91	51	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05						
SF-539	0.132	0.462	0.491	0.516	0.506	0.435	0.110	109	117	113	92	-17	3.06E-06	8.85E-06	>1.26E-05						
SNB-19	0.176	0.905	0.857	0.880	0.887	0.883	0.437	93	97	98	97	36	7.38E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05						

SNB-75	0.501	1.051	0.925	1.049	1.134	0.703	0.438	77	100	115	37	-13	8.54E-07	6.98E-06	>1.26E-05
U251	0.192	0.799	0.789	0.792	0.803	0.680	0.061	98	99	101	80	-68	2.02E-06	4.37E-06	9.47E-06
Melanoma															
LOX IMVI	0.173	1.304	1.175	1.170	0.974	0.997	0.319	89	88	71	73	13	3.03E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
MALME-3M	0.476	0.859	1.006	0.949	0.868	0.819	0.275	138	123	102	90	-42	2.51E-06	6.02E-06	>1.26E-05
M14	0.123	0.613	0.602	0.635	0.592	0.549	0.136	98	105	96	87	3	3.45E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
SK-MEL-2	0.388	0.704	0.766	0.714	0.735	0.676	0.323	113	103	110	91	-17	3.03E-06	8.81E-06	>1.26E-05
SK-MEL-28	0.513	1.090	1.088	1.107	1.093	1.057	0.546	100	103	101	94	6	3.98E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
SK-MEL-5	0.454	2.107	2.049	2.066	2.025	1.748	0.460	96	97	95	78	0	2.90E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
UACC-257	0.596	1.142	1.149	1.128	1.165	1.078	0.814	101	97	104	88	40	7.78E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
UACC-62	0.306	1.082	1.111	1.105	1.108	1.051	0.355	104	103	103	96	6	4.10E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
Ovarian Cancer															
IGROV1	0.291	1.679	1.828	1.932	1.743	1.710	0.536	111	118	105	102	18	5.22E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
OVCAR-3	0.240	1.066	1.073	1.055	1.045	0.980	0.343	101	99	97	90	12	4.10E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
OVCAR-5	0.457	1.206	1.243	1.230	1.157	1.181	0.715	105	103	93	97	34	7.07E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
OVCAR-8	0.173	1.340	1.250	1.245	1.159	1.107	0.495	92	92	84	80	28	4.71E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
SK-OV-3	0.351	0.865	0.836	0.852	0.853	0.867	0.557	94	97	98	100	40	8.59E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
Renal Cancer															
A498	0.400	0.678	0.691	0.657	0.649	0.635	0.357	105	93	89	84	-11	2.90E-06	9.71E-06	>1.26E-05
CAKI-1	0.372	0.942	1.058	0.960	1.103	0.819	0.325	120	103	128	78	-13	2.59E-06	9.13E-06	>1.26E-05
RXE 393	0.743	1.243	0.860	1.114	1.290	1.077	0.776	23	74	109	67	7		>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
SN12C	0.157	0.546	0.533	0.529	0.500	0.474	0.113	97	96	88	81	-28	2.44E-06	6.96E-06	>1.26E-05
TX-10	0.355	1.027	1.014	1.002	1.042	0.999	0.727	98	96	102	96	55	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
UO-31	0.124	0.765	0.799	0.816	0.830	0.785	0.391	105	108	110	103	42	9.20E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
Prostate Cancer															
PC-3	0.187	0.419	0.426	0.399	0.390	0.342	0.179	103	91	88	67	-4	2.17E-06	1.10E-05	>1.26E-05
DU-145	0.384	1.151	1.081	1.389	1.194	1.119	0.873	91	131	106	96	64	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
Breast Cancer															
MCF7	0.200	0.928	0.924	0.912	0.985	0.893	0.277	99	98	108	95	11	4.31E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
NCI/ADR-RES	0.328	1.386	1.576	1.376	1.425	1.298	0.801	118	99	104	92	45	9.69E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
MDA-MB-231/ATCC															
MDA-MB-231/ATCC	0.304	0.644	0.635	0.651	0.674	0.667	0.314	97	102	109	107	3	4.43E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
HS 578T	0.369	1.255	1.338	1.296	1.219	1.300	0.742	109	105	96	105	42	9.44E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
MDA-MB-435	0.465	1.425	1.370	1.354	1.476	1.369	0.666	94	93	105	94	21	5.05E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
MDA-N	0.348	1.471	1.499	1.481	1.374	1.316	0.385	102	101	91	86	3	3.44E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05

BT-549	0.735	1.762	1.910	1.865	1.847	1.599	0.998	114	110	108	84	26	4.82E-06	> 1.26E-05	> 1.26E-05	> 1.26E-05
T-47D	0.464	1.007	0.941	1.054	1.184	0.905	0.419	88	109	133	81	-10	2.78E-06	9.86E-06	> 1.26E-05	

[0100] In the first set of tests, according to Table 1 and the dose response curves as shown in FIG. 1A to 1I, arsenic trioxide was effective in reducing cell growth against almost all the cell lines tested. In particular, leukemic cell lines, melanoma cell lines, and ovarian cancer cell lines responded consistently by showing a reduction of more than 50% growth. According to the mean graph as shown in FIG. 2, most of the leukemic and melanoma cell lines, central nervous system cancer cell lines SNB-75 and U251, prostate cancer cell line PC-3, renal cancer cell lines A498, CAKI-1, SN12C, and lung cancer cell line, NCI-H522 were especially sensitive (relative to all the cell lines tested) to treatment with arsenic trioxide.

TABLE 2

Panel/Cell Line	Time	Log 10 Concentration										LC50			
		Mean Optical Densities					Percent Growth								
		Zero	Ctrl	-8.9	-7.9	-6.9	-5.9	-4.9	-3.9	-2.9	-1.9				
Leukemia															
CCRF-CEM	0.047	3.511	3.601	3.592	3.051	0.320	0.048	103	102	87	8	0	3.68E-07	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
K-562	0.041	3.011	3.042	2.992	3.360	2.931	0.096	101	99	112	97	2	3.94E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
MOLT-4	0.018	0.503	0.554	0.228	0.432	0.245	0.113	111	43	85	47	20		>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
RPMI-8226	0.066	1.432	1.607	1.263	1.423	0.368	0.065	113	88	99	22	-2	5.48E-07	1.09E-05	>1.26E-05
Non-small Cell Lung Cancer															
EKVX	0.030	0.682	0.573	0.601	0.628	0.414	0.014	83	88	92	59	-53	1.51E-06	4.22E-06	1.18E-05
HOP-62	0.061	1.026	1.076	0.997	1.019	0.451	0.014	105	97	99	40	-77	8.66E-07	2.78E-06	7.41E-06
HOP-92	0.115	1.292	1.455	1.834	1.319	1.229	0.079	114	146	102	95	-31	2.85E-06	7.11E-06	>1.26E-05
NCI-H226	0.094	0.498	0.504	0.458	0.489	0.348	0.164	101	90	98	63	17	2.40E-08	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
NCI-H23	0.075	1.624	1.818	1.814	1.872	1.303	0.086	113	112	116	79	1	2.97E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
NCI-H322M	0.035	0.702	0.680	0.620	0.674	0.552	0.054	97	88	96	77	3	2.94E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
NCI-H460	0.034	2.839	2.797	2.806	2.792	2.535	0.062	99	99	98	89	1	3.50E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
NCI-H522	0.175	1.224	1.269	0.535	1.191	0.128	0.028	104	34	97	-27	-84		7.64E-07	3.19E-06
Colon Cancer															
COLO 205	0.022	2.351	2.308	2.026	2.283	1.404	0.024	98	86	97	59	0	1.81E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
													>1.26E-05		
HCT-116	0.046	3.420	3.395	3.289	3.381	3.284	1.931	99	96	99	96	56	05	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
HCT-15	0.033	3.838	3.965	3.921	4.227	3.432	0.404	103	102	110	89	10	3.93E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
HT29	0.017	3.060	3.189	2.988	2.706	1.476	0.027	104	98	88	48	0	1.12E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
KM12	0.012	0.808	0.487	0.533	0.507	0.036	0.017	80	87	83	4	1	3.29E-07	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
SW-620	0.023	2.652	2.613	2.308	2.337	1.475	0.007	99	87	88	55	-72	1.39E-06	3.43E-06	8.50E-06
CNS Cancer															
SF-268	0.054	0.798	0.990	0.381	0.356	0.387	-0.004	126	44	41	45	-100	1.06E-08	2.57E-06	5.69E-06
SF-295	0.031	1.324	1.284	1.279	1.244	0.659	0.010	97	97	94	49	-69	1.17E-06	3.25E-06	8.64E-06
SF-539	0.041	1.598	1.727	1.403	1.545	0.691	0.017	108	87	97	42	-59	8.91E-07	3.29E-06	1.04E-05
SNB-75	0.134	1.065	1.143	1.033	1.024	0.815	0.028	108	97	96	73	-79	1.79E-06	3.80E-06	8.08E-06
U251	0.105	2.324	2.129	2.018	1.908	0.088	-0.012	91	86	81	-17	-100	2.63E-07	8.51E-07	3.16E-06
Melanoma															

LOX IMVI	0.013	2.153	2.000	1.666	0.053	0.002	-0.001	93	77	2	-88	-100	2.90E-08	1.32E-07	4.73E-07
MALMI-3M	0.115	0.650	0.702	0.595	0.823	0.383	0.005	110	90	132	50	-96	1.26E-06	2.78E-06	6.12E-06
SK-MEL-2	0.213	0.500	0.491	0.462	0.426	0.128		97	87	74	-40	-100	2.06E-07	5.63E-07	1.85E-06
SK-MEL-28	0.093	2.030	2.012	1.906	1.797	0.488		99	94	88	20	-100	4.60E-07	1.86E-06	4.84E-06
SK-MEL-5	0.181	1.907	1.935	1.864	1.929	1.846	0.013	102	97	101	96	-93	2.22E-06	4.07E-06	7.46E-06
UACC-257	0.053	0.883	0.872	0.857	0.832	0.504	0.039	99	97	94	54	-27	1.42E-06	5.83E-06	>1.26E-05
UACC-62	0.030	1.537	1.546	1.460	1.409	0.539	0.001	101	95	92	34	-98	6.60E-07	2.27E-06	5.43E-06
Ovarian Cancer															
IGROV1	0.335	3.115	3.541	3.056	3.204	2.877	0.216	115	98	103	91	-36	2.67E-06	6.62E-06	>1.26E-05
OVCAR-3	0.081	1.153	1.047	1.128	1.124	0.482	0.001	90	98	97	37	-99	7.76E-07	2.36E-06	5.49E-06
OVCAR-5	0.038	1.404	1.433	1.460	1.478	1.287	0.028	102	104	105	91	-26	2.83E-06	7.53E-06	>1.26E-05
OVCAR-8	0.016	2.090	2.272	1.848	2.242	1.437	-0.001	109	88	107	68	-100	1.62E-06	3.21E-06	6.36E-06
SK-OV-3	0.041	1.474	1.445	1.410	1.461	1.247	0.020	98	96	99	84	-51	2.25E-06	5.27E-06	1.23E-05
Renal Cancer															
786-0	0.021	1.578	1.582	1.821	1.786	0.832	-0.003	100	116	113	52	-100	1.30E-06	2.77E-06	5.91E-06
A498	0.051	0.741	0.826	0.764	0.837	0.558	0.025	112	103	114	73	-52	1.94E-06	4.85E-06	1.22E-05
CAKI-1	0.032	1.352	1.254	1.725	1.573	0.491	0.004	93	128	117	35	-88	8.22E-07	2.43E-06	6.22E-06
RXF 393	0.198	1.515	1.327	1.301	1.727	0.909	0.017	86	84	116	54	-91	1.34E-06	2.96E-06	6.54E-06
S12C	0.024	0.956	0.882	1.141	1.113	0.829	0.013	92	120	117	86	-46	2.37E-06	5.67E-06	>1.26E-05
TK-10	0.072	1.333	1.356	1.268	1.334	1.103	0.239	102	95	100	82	13	3.66E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
Prostate Cancer															
DU-145	0.095	2.158	2.147	1.954	1.935	2.153	0.055	99	90	89	100	-43	2.82E-06	6.32E-06	>1.26E-05
Breast Cancer															
MCF7	0.028	2.650	2.647	2.611	2.603	1.683	0.008	100	99	98	63	-73	1.57E-06	3.66E-06	8.51E-06
NCI/ADR-RIS	0.050	2.304	2.075	2.253	1.951	1.319	0.072	90	98	84	56	1	1.64E-06	>1.26E-05	>1.26E-05
MDA-MB-231/A															
TCC	0.158	0.761	0.759	0.764	0.771	0.563	-0.001	100	101	102	67	-100	1.59E-06	3.18E-06	6.33E-06
HS 578T	0.109	0.728	0.777	0.587	0.890	0.706	0.010	108	77	126	96	-91	2.23E-06	4.12E-06	7.62E-06
MDA-MB-435	0.054	1.500	1.276	1.470	0.865	0.631	0.021	85	98	56	40	-62	3.00E-07	3.10E-06	9.60E-06
MDA-N	0.028	2.652	2.468	2.616	2.606	1.738	0.026	93	99	98	65	-9	2.02E-06	9.55E-06	>1.26E-05
BT-549	0.112	1.798	1.876	1.940	1.963	1.697	0.018	105	108	110	94	-84	2.22E-06	4.24E-06	8.08E-06
T-47D	0.098	0.824	0.883	0.336	0.539	0.398	0.027	108	33	61	41	-73		2.90E-06	7.93E-06

[0101] In the second set of tests, according to Table 2, the dose response curves, and the mean graph as shown in FIG. 3A to 3I, and FIG. 4, arsenic trioxide was effective in reducing cell growth against all the cell lines tested. The results were consistent with those obtained from the first set of tests. In particular, several melanoma cell lines appeared to be especially sensitive at the various principal response parameters.

[0102] In conclusion, these results demonstrate that arsenic trioxide is effective in inhibiting the growth of leukemic cells and cancer cells in vitro, and that arsenic trioxide can be used in human subjects to treat a broad range of leukemia, and cancers, including but not limited to non-small cell lung cancer, colon cancer, central nervous system cancer, melanoma, ovarian cancer, renal cancer, prostate cancer, and breast cancer

[0103] The present invention is not to be limited in scope by the specific embodiments described herein. Indeed, various modifications of the invention in addition to those described herein will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the foregoing description. Such modifications are intended to fall within the scope of the appended claims.